

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 805

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USIA FOR IEU; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; FOR P&C; PAO'S

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UR US CSCE

SUBJECT: FRG AND UK PRESS ATTACHES ON CSCE AND JOURNALISTS

REF: MOSCOW 1718

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEB 25, EBERHARD HEYKEN
ASKED IF THE US PLANS TO DISCUSS FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS FOR
JOURNALISTS WITH MFA. HE SAID GERMAN EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE
MUCH MORE CAN BE GAINED AT THIS POINT. HE FEELS ONE
OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STEPS HAS BEEN THE PRELIMINARY ACCEPTANCE
OF A MOSCOW-BASED GERMAN TV (ARD) CAMERAMAN (REF MOSCOW 1718).
ALTHOUGH STILL NOT FULLY ACCREDITED, THE CAMERAMAN HAS THUS
FAR SHOT FILM AND SHIPPED IT TO GERMANY WITHOUT PROBLEM.
(NOTE: ABC, NBC AND CBS HAVE RECENTLY BROUGHT TV TEAMS INTO
THE SOVIET UNION AND ENCOUNTERED FEW PROBLEMS IN FILMING
OR EXPORTING FILM. HOWEVER, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, NO US CAMERAMEN
HAVE YET APPLIED FOR RESIDENT ACCREDITATION.)

2. HEYKEN NOTED THAT RESIDENT GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS STILL
COMPLAIN ABOUT LACK OF ACCESS TO USSR OFFICIALS. HE SAID
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TASS DIRECTOR GENERAL ZAMYATIN TOLD HIM THAT HE (ZAMYATIN)

HELD BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS ON OCCASION WITH US
CORRESPONDENTS. GERMAN REPORTERS HAVE TRIED FRUITLESSLY
TO SEE ZAMYATIN. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE
MEETINGS WITH RESIDENT US CORRESPONDENTS WERE
NO COMMON OCCURRENCE. US JOURNALISTS OFTEN COMPLAIN THAT
THEY ARE UNABLE EVEN TO SEE THE HEAD OF MFA'S PRESS SECTION.
IN SUMMARY, HEYKEN DOES NOT SEE GREAT ADVANCES IN THE INFORMATION
FIELD SINCE HELSINKI.

3. IN CONTRAST TO GERMAN ATTITUDE, UK PRESS ATTACHE DAVID
JOHNSON ON FEBRUARY 27 TOLD EMBOFF THAT UK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES
HAVE MET TWICE IN RECENT MONTHS WITH MFA/PRESS
SECTION CHIEF VSEVOLOD SOFINSKIY. AT LAST SESSION, SOFINSKIY
PROMISED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM BRITISH EMBASSY
AND UK CORRESPONDENT CORPS IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS IMPROVED
CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. UK REPS HOPE FOR
PROMISED SESSION SHORTLY AFTER XXV CONGRESS.

4. P&C COUNSELOR AND PRESS ATTACHE HAVE INFORMED SOFINSKIY
AND OTHER MFA/PRESS OFFICIALS THAT WE DESIRE
APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM OVERALL
FOREIGN JOURNALIST TREATMENT AS SOON AS XXV CONGRESS IS OVER.
STOESSEL

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